

## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **2007 Annual Report to Congress on Implementation of Public Law 106-107**

#### **I. Overview**

This document is the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Supplement to the government-wide Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Public Law 106-107, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. This report summarizes VA's efforts to streamline and simplify its grants process and activities for the period September 1, 2006 through November 30, 2007.

VA awarded 164 discretionary capital grants in three grant programs for a total dollar value of \$211,437,277. VA actively participated in Grants.gov, Government-wide Grants Management Line of Business (GM LoB), and in the following interagency workgroups: Grants Executive Board (GEB), Grants Policy Committee (GPC), the Grants Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Task Force, and Grants Stakeholder Meetings.

#### **II. Grants.gov Accomplishments**

- 7 announcements or 100 percent of VA grant announcements were posted via Grants.gov.
- 3 grant programs or 100 percent of all eligible VA grant programs were made available for electronic application through Grants.gov.
- 70 applications or 20 percent of all applications were received via Grants.gov.
- 297 applications or 80 percent of all applications were received via other options (paper, mail, etc.). The forms available through Grants.gov do not currently meet all of our needs for the Homeless Grant and Per Diem and State Home Per Diem Programs, and we are working with Grants.gov in 2008 to explore solutions. Homeless Grant Program applicants are currently offered the opportunity to download the appropriate application form from the program Web Site and submit it through Grants.gov as an application attachment, if they choose.
- VA continues to train new VA Grant Program staff and grantees on Grants.gov, as needed.

Regarding Outreach – VA provides Grants.gov information, including brochures, compact discs, and in some cases training, to the VA applicant community.

The VA Grants Management Coordinator collaborates with grants management oversight groups regarding outreach improvements.

- VA posted 100 percent of its competitive capital grant announcements and matching application packages on Grants.gov.

### **III. Grants Management Line of Business (GM LoB) Accomplishments**

- VA is conducting due diligence in preparation for partnering with one or more of the designated Consortia Leads.
- By initiating the GM LoB Gap/Fit analysis, VA began the initial steps in developing a baseline assessment of internal grant systems and functional requirements.
- The cost savings related to participation in the Consortia GM LoB are undetermined. However, we anticipate that VA's benefits would include improved delivery of services to grant recipients, improved decision-making, and decreased costs associated with building and maintaining Grants Management IT systems. VA would work with members of the Consortia to define requirements, streamline processes, improve reporting, and develop a grants management system. By sharing services, VA's costs to build and maintain a grants management system would most likely decrease.

### **IV. Debarment & Suspension**

- VA published the new nonprocurement debarment-suspension regulation in Subtitle B of 2 CFR, on Thursday May 31, 2007.
- VA removed its codification of the common rule from Title 38 CFR part 44, and made conforming changes to 38 CFR 36.4226, 36.4337, 36.4346, 36.4349, 39.6, 48.510 and 49.13 by referencing 2 CFR parts 180 and 801, and 38CFR part 48.51210 by referencing 38 CFR part 48, on Thursday May 31, 2007.

**V. VA Commitment to Future Involvement with Government-wide Grants Initiatives Beyond 2007**

- VA will continue to pursue streamlining its GM LoBs; and participate in government-wide boards, committees, taskforces, consortia, and workgroups - to further streamline and standardize user access, policies, procedures, processes, and measures.
- We plan to continue with our baseline assessment, as well as complete a more detailed gap/fit analysis.
- VA plans to join the Health & Human Services (HHS) Consortia, and partner with other Consortia members to streamline and standardize public access, user interface, common forms and data, processes, procedures, operations.
- VA is developing a GM LoB Consortia implementation strategy plan and expects to produce a solid draft in 2 Qtr FY 2008.
- VA will continue to provide grants reporting to USASpending.gov for the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.